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"They say it was a shocking sight,  
After the field was won,  
For many thousand bodies here  
Lay rotting in the sun ;  
But things like that you know must be,  
After a famous victory.

"Great praise the Duke of Marlbro' won,  
And our good Prince Eugene,—"  
"Why, 'twas a very wicked thing,"  
Said little Wilhelmine.

"Nay, nay, my little girl," quoth he,  
"It was a famous victory.

"And every body praised the Duke,  
Who such a fight did win,—"  
"And what good came of it at last ?"  
Quoth little Peterkin.  
"Why, that I cannot tell," said he ;  
But 'twas a famous victory."

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#### DISCOVERIES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN ARTS, MANUFACTURES, AND AGRICULTURE.

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*On the Culture of the real Summer Wheat ;\** by Charles Thomas Skurray, Esq. of Alverdiscot, Devon, Secretary to the North Devon Agricultural Society.

(From the Communications of the Board of Agriculture.)

IT has happened rather unfortunately, that the many varieties of wheat which have been cultivated in the spring, and thence denominated spring wheats, have proved of a very inferior quality, and the growers have, in consequence, been obliged to sell it at a lower rate than other wheat. This has occasioned so great a dislike to every kind of wheat sown in spring, that it has become a very difficult matter to prevail on a mere practical farmer to sow his land with spring wheat, even if his crop of winter wheat has been destroyed by severe weather, floods, wire-worms, and the numberless accidents to which it is always exposed: he rather prefers sowing his wheat land with either barley, oats, or pulse; of course, this system must be productive of an extra quantity of barley, &c., and occasion a great deficiency of bread corn; for wheat must be

considered as the food of four-fifths of the inhabitants of England and Wales: and when there is a failure in our harvest, we are under the necessity of importing any deficiency of wheats from foreigners, and not unfrequently from our most inveterate enemies. The climate of Great Britain has of late years been very unfavourable to the growth of wheat, and it is easy to trace the present high price of grain to this much to be lamented cause. The dis-temper to which wheat has for many seasons past been liable, are known by the name of blight and mildew. Many farms are now become so subject to one or other of these misfortunes, as to induce the occupiers to abandon the culture of wheat altogether; and numerous instances have occurred, within the knowledge of the writer, where farmers of substance and respectability have been utterly ruined by the frequent failure of their wheat crops from the above causes.

It will, therefore, be my endeavour to convince the most prejudiced mind, that the valuable grain of which I am now treating, is wholly exempt from the mildew, in those seasons when common wheat is completely destroyed by it; that it is of superior value to the miller, to the consumer, and to the farmer: that it produces a large return; and is on the whole more profitable than any other corn crop.

Before I proceed to detail the method of culture, I shall briefly state some of the great advantages to be derived from the summer wheat.

1st. It may be sown with success the beginning of May, giving thereby an opportunity of feeding off turnips and ruta baga

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\* Although we have given in a former Number of our work some account of this valuable grain by the same gentleman, yet as the following account contains some particulars respecting it not noticed in the former, we trust our readers will not deem it superfluous. [See Belfast Monthly Magazine, for August, 1813, page 122.]

at the most trying season, when green food of all kinds is scarce.

2ndly. It is the best of all corn as a nurse to clovers and grasses.

3dly. It requires no extraordinary tillage or manure.

4thly. It produces a large increase, and is very much approved of by the millers.

5thly. The straw makes excellent fodder for cattle.

6thly. It is not liable either to rust, mildew, or blight, and in wet seasons is not so apt as common wheat to lodge or go down.

After many years experience, I can with confidence assert, that there is no other species of wheat which possesses these important advantages. In a national point of view, the benefits to be derived from it are incalculable: instead of growing such quantities of oats and beans, let our farmers be encouraged to sow summer wheat; we shall then see fewer pampered horses, but, what is of more consequence to us as a commercial nation, we shall see fewer starving poor; our labourers and manufacturers better fed, than can ever be the case while bread maintains the price it has done for some time past.

Having made these observations, merely to point out the advantages to be derived from it, I shall now proceed to the method of culture.

1st. *The Description of the Grain*.—The real summer wheat is somewhat different in its external appearance from that sort usually called spring wheat. It is a small plump grain of a brownish cast; the bran remarkably thin, very heavy, but not what the millers term a bright sample; it has a bearded ear generally; but I suspect this depends greatly on the land, as some soils produce more and longer beards than others, while in some places the beards will in time nearly disappear: this is a fact I am totally unable to account for. The straw is slender, but never grows very high.

*The Soil*.—A tenacious loam suits it well, but any soil that is not too light will yield a crop, provided it is clean, in tolerable heart, and well worked. Wet boggy land wholly improper. The lands in the north of Devon are shallow, light, and rocky; of course not adapted for a wheat crop. The average crop of wheat in that part of the country is about fifteen bushels per acre. The summer wheat has generally produced from twenty-five to thirty bush-

els in the same land; soil and seasons alike.

*The Rotation*.—After turnips, potatoes, cabbage, ruta baga, or indeed any green crop; but where the winter wheat may have failed from any cause whatever, the summer wheat is always sure to succeed. I have known it succeed well when a coarse old pasture had been pared and burnt, and sown with turnips, the turnips fed off, and summer wheat sown the end of April: also on a clover ley when ploughed before Christmas, and well worked in the spring.

*Seed and Preparation*.—About three bushels of seed per acre is the proper quantity, as it has not time to spread so much as winter wheat; but if the land is rich, a less quantity of seed will suffice; though under any circumstances, less than ten pecks (Winchester) should not be sown. The seed must be prepared with lime and brine in the ordinary way that other seed wheat is; for be it remembered, that it is fully as liable to smut as common wheat, without this salutary and wise precaution. The proper time for sowing is all April, sooner or later, according to the season.

*Harvest*.—It ripens about the same time as other wheat; thus, in four months after sowing, it is harvested: with other wheat, ten months, and in some cases near one year is requisite to bring it to perfection. Being short in the straw, it may be mown with a scythe and bow, like barley; it is thus cut speedily, and at little expense.

*Produce*.—In the West of England, where the wheat crops are light, compared with other counties, the produce of this wheat is generally ten bushels per acre more than common wheat, even when sown in the same field. The weight of a bushel, Winchester measure, in 1811, was  $60\frac{1}{4}$  lbs.; but this was a year when all grain was particularly light. In some cases, the writer has had it full  $61\frac{1}{4}$  lbs. the Winchester bushel.

The comparative value of summer wheat may be stated at about 1s. per bushel above the market price of the best red Lammis wheat; in some instances, the writer has known it sold to the millers at 2s. per bushel more than common white wheat. But hitherto, in consequence of the growers reserving their summer wheat for seed (and which I have taken much pains to persuade them so to do), but little has been sold to the millers, and that only to ascertain its real value as bread corn. Af-

ter having proved the quality, they would have purchased any quantity of it.

The bread made from it possesses many good qualities. It remains moist long after it is baked; it rises well in the oven, and is very pleasant to the taste. It is supposed by some eminent chemists to contain more gluten, or nourishment, than common wheat; it is not, however, so white as the bread made from the flour of white wheat.

On referring to Duhamel's Elements of Agriculture, I find it there stated, that this species of grain (which he calls summer wheat) has been cultivated in France for a series of years, and the only objection to it appears to be, that the work in the spring would be too much hurried by having all the corn to sow at that season.

This, I admit, may at the first blush appear an objection, but, after due consideration, it will not be so formidable as some agriculturists seem to imagine. The tedious part of the operation in preparing land is ploughing and manuring; therefore, if the winter months are employed in ploughing and carting out dung, &c., the process of sowing and covering the seed may be dispatched, when the proper season arrives, without any extra bustle or inconvenience. And instead of committing the seed into a bed of mire, in the months of November and December, the lands may be previously laid up in due form, to be ready to work the first dry time after the turn of Christmas.

It is much to be apprehended, that the late wet autumn has obliged much land to be sown in a wretched condition, and much more to remain unsown to this day. In this case, the dependence of the farmer must be on the common wheat sown in the spring, which, I know by experience, is but a sorry dependence. Being sown late, it of course ripens late, and has to encounter all the risks of blight and mildew: should it chance to escape these maladies, the short days commence, the sun loses its power, and the rainy weather sets in before the corn is sufficiently ripe to harvest. The loss to the farmer and the nation is obvious.

In such instances, therefore, the advantages of the summer wheat must appear conspicuous, and those who had once felt the benefit of it would act unwisely to omit sowing it every year, at least in sufficient quantity to furnish seed to their neighbours and themselves; the great difficulty of procuring that which is really good and genuine, being a strong barrier to its

introduction. This wheat came into Devonshire many years ago, from either France or Guernsey, and was grown more for curiosity than any other motive. It was in the hands of a few gentlemen only, when my neighbour, the late Mr. Exeter, whose practice in the drill husbandry is so well known, procured a bushel of it for experiment sake. Not being acquainted with its nature, he sowed it at too early a period in the spring (February and March,) when the produce and sample did not meet his approbation the ensuing harvest. He, however, sold small parcels of it to his neighbours, none of whom paid any attention to its peculiar merit. Meeting with a few bushels in the hands of a farmer, I purchased them, and after repeated experiments, I have found it a most valuable grain. So conscious now are the farmers in Devonshire of its merits, that it is bought up with avidity in the markets at a very high rate for seed; though, previous to my cultivating it on a large scale, the value of it was unknown, both to the farmers and the millers. Within a few years, I have grown many hundreds of bushels, all of which I have taken pains to disseminate. Many persons who obtained small quantities of the seed to make trial, have invariably continued the culture of it on an enlarged scale, and there is no single instance in which it has been fairly tried, that it has failed to answer the expectations of the grower.

Certificates from various individuals who have grown this valuable wheat, were forwarded to the London Society of Arts, with some communications from me on the subject, for which I was complimented with an Honorary Medal. The particulars may be referred to in the last volume of their Transactions, just published.

#### *Method of preparing fine Green and Blue Colours; by M. Tiboet.*

(From Journal fur Technologie.)

##### *Green.*

Equal parts of good verdeggris and cream of tartar are pulverised in a mortar; eight of water are poured on it, and the whole is left to digest for eight days at a mild heat in a bottle. The solution is afterwards filtered, and eight parts of the weight of the verdeggris of gum arabic is added to it, the vessel being kept at a gentle heat until the gum is dissolved; a